

Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes September 27, 2006

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Harry Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Allen, Cain, Gilmer, Klco, Landeg, Rutledge, Sholtis, Tischler, Urbanski, Welch, and Mmes. Keneven-Zanella and Neale. Staff present: Messrs. Boyd and Webster and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Klco moved to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2006 meeting as submitted. Mr. Welch seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

Minutes were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Lakeland Video

Mr. Phil Boyle at the Lakeland Community College is assisting on the coastal plan development video. Mr. Boyd explained that the video production started later than anticipated because of changes made to the video room and the election debates. The first shooting was done about two months ago and should be completed in a couple weeks. The portion to be done with the County Commissioners had to be cancelled twice because of the weather. The script should be done in a couple weeks for the "voice overs". The video would be shown on the Lakeland channel to give Lake County residents some background on our initiative.

Business Luncheon

The focus at the luncheon at the Kirtland Country Club was to inform the business leaders of the plan, solicit their participation and address concerns from their perspective. There were 54 business leaders attendance. After a Coastal Development Plan presentation was made by Mr. Allen, table monitors had an opportunity to hear what the business leaders felt was needed in order to move forward.

Go forward management strategy needs were determined as follows:

- A management entity is needed as an economic development tool. The private sector seems to be very supportive of this process.
- Keeping the Willoughby airport.
- Risk versus investment concerns by the basic business environment need to be addressed.
- Ability to leverage local dollars in light of state and federal match requirements.
- Sit with the new Governor and get our initiative on their docket.
- Redefining the lakefront as the number one economic resource in the County.
- Private sector is willing to write checks for lakefront development. They were, however, concerned that their money would not be going to a project that would go by the wayside because it was not thought out thoroughly.
- Need a management entity in place that takes in the interests of the entire County.
- A good quality of life is needed to attract and retain people and businesses.
- Logistics of starting a new business is unfriendly; needs to change.
- Attract executives and maintain a corporate record of resources.
- Need proof of private/entrepreneur interest for role in funding in Columbus.
- Target market must be defined.

Mr. Allen felt it was the Committee's job to make sure that whatever we choose is the right one for the people, time and place. The four port authorities need to come together.

We need to continue searching for funding matches.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Management Alternatives

This may be the time for this group to research other financial management entities as port authority alternatives. Examples include the New Community Initiative and 6320 Corp. A little known and unused cell phone bill and utility tax is another potential option. Mr. Boyd will check into other possible alternatives.

Mr. Cain believed a port authority already has all the dynamics needed and would be the proper template to follow should this project proceed.

The business leaders expressed their desire at the luncheon to the Commissioners to retain the Willoughby airport. As just announced in the News-Herald, the County is buying it and the FFA has offered to provide the initial funding. The airport's importance will probably increase as an overflow airport if something happens to Burke Airport.

Mr. Tischer was concerned about how those communities without current port authorities would be represented in a management authority. The representation will be comprised of a collective housing of experienced people to be determined by the participating authority.

Reviewing Committee for Alternative Management Agencies

The Chairman asked for volunteers for a committee to review the three alternative management agency options presented at this meeting: a. cell phone and utility tax; b. 6320 Corp.; and c. New Community Initiative. Those members who volunteered were Messrs.

Urbanski and Klco and Ms. Keneven-Zanella. Ms. Keneven-Zanella volunteered to work on the cell phone and utility tax option.

CMAG Grant Opportunity

Mr. Boyd announced that the ODNR Office of Coastal Management is accepting applications for coastal management assistance grants for land acquisitions. A 50/50 match is needed for this grant. Applications for this grant will be due around November 15th – 17th. If the ask is reasonable, the Planning Commission will be more than happy to provide assistance with the applications.

Lakeland Presentation – “If you’ve got it, flaunt it”

Mr. Allen was looking forward to the presentation for the Great Lakes Lecture Series at Lakeland that he and Mr. Boyd would be making tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. entitled “If you’ve got it, flaunt it” on developing Lake County’s coastline. He stated that this would be the first introduction of our initiative to the community as a whole. It will also be the first large-screen pictorial of what we are proposing for the region.

Round Table Discussion of Management Groups

Dino DiSanto, District Director for Congressman LaTourette, is to issue invitations for a meeting with the port authorities and, obviously, has not been able to do so yet.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

There were a lot of background articles since the last meeting in May. Discussed were:

Ferry to Canada

Grand River Village is involved in the ferry to Canada movement. Cleveland is also in the market and has already retained some financing.

The Chairman acknowledged this Committee must remain passive on this issue, but not negative. We are waiting for a detailed outline and proposal that can be brought here.

Industrial concerns possibly being overlooked was mentioned by Mr. Cain. Mr. Boyd replied that there are some heavy industrial areas, but only for water essential use, on the Grand River/Painesville Township side of the water.

Ashtabula Interest in Coastal Development Plan

The Director of Planning in Ashtabula has been in contact with Mr. Webster concerning this Committee’s coastal development project. Commissioner Boggs seems very interested also. Ashtabula’s Planning Department is hoping to catch up with us and bond together. They have two functioning ports, Conneaut and Ashtabula, and a huge rail system. This would be very advantageous to Lake County.

Mr. Cain thanked Mr. Boyd for his time and effort in helping Eastlake with their planning and zoning efforts.

Discussion on Round Table Meeting

All municipality leaders will be contacted and invited to send an emissary to the meeting being set up with the port authorities through Congressman LaTourette's office. We will be looking for resolution; there will be no secrets. The port authorities have to be extinguished in order to establish a county port authority or we can do a regional port authority and they would be excluded from that district, which would create another whole set of issues.

Lighthouse Pamphlet

Mr. Barchok distributed a Lake Erie Coastal Ohio brochure of a scheduled tour on May 28 of the lighthouses along the Lake Erie coast. Fairport Harbor is one of the lighthouses. The next tour pamphlet will be on botanical gardens and will include the Arboretum.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Michael Victor, President of Lake Erie College, offered their resources for our Lake County Coastal Committee use. Mr. Allen will send a letter to acknowledge this offer.

The next meeting will be held at Lake Erie College on Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Boyd will get instructions out to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and Mr. Urbanski seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

ACTION ITEMS:

- Confirm use of a Lake Erie College room for next meeting. Mr. Boyd will get map & instructions to members.
- A committee meeting to review the three alternative management agency options needs to be set. Mr. Boyd will be in contact with those volunteering.
- Dino DiSanto, District Director for Congressman LaTourette, is to issue invitations for a meeting with the port authorities and all municipal leaders.
- A presentation for the Great Lakes Lecture Series at Lakeland will be made by Mr. Allen and Mr. Boyd tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. entitled "If you've got it, flaunt it" on developing Lake County's coastline.